

that can be locked, and other basic measures, enable such attacks. There is no excuse for such failures and everything must be done to ensure that women and children are safe.

There is also the real threat that terrorist groups like ISIS will infiltrate these massive movements of people to kill civilians in Europe and beyond. I am deeply concerned that the screening at many European borders is inadequate and putting lives at risk. All of us must be responsive to the humanitarian needs without compromising one iota on security. European response plans should include specifics about strengthening security screening throughout the European region.

During the conflict in Kosovo, I travelled to Stenkovec refugee camp in Macedonia and was at the McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey to welcome some of the 4,400 people brought from there to the United States. A refugee—Agron Abdullahu—was apprehended and sent to jail in 2008 for supplying guns and ammunition to the “Fort Dix 5”—a group of terrorists who were also sent to prison for plotting to kill American soldiers at the Fort Dix military installation.

Given Secretary Kerry’s announcement in September that the United States intends to resettle at least 85,000 refugees in fiscal year 2016, including at least 10,000 Syrians, and at least 100,000 refugees in fiscal year 2017, the United States and Europe must be on high alert to weed out terrorists from real refugees. Because religious and ethnic minorities often have additional risks and vulnerabilities even as refugees, they should be prioritized for resettlement.

Tuesday’s hearing examined the “who” is arriving, the “why” they are coming to Europe, and the “what” has been done and should be done in response. European governments, entities like the OSCE and the EU, and civil society all have critical roles to play.

The United States has been the leading donor to the humanitarian crisis inside Syria and refugee crisis in the region. We also have the largest refugee admissions program in the world. However, according to Tuesday’s testimony from Shelly Pitterman, Regional Representative for the UN High Commission for Refugees, “The current inter-agency Syrian Regional Refugee and Resilience (3RP) plan for 2015 is only 41 percent funded, which has meant cuts in food aid for thousands of refugees.”

Globally, he warned, “The humanitarian system is financially broke. We are no longer able to meet even the absolute minimum requirements of core protection and lifesaving assistance to preserve the human dignity of the people we care for. The current funding level for the 33 UN appeals to provide humanitarian assistance to 82 million people around the world is only 42 percent. UNHCR expects to receive just 47 percent of the funding we need this year.”

At the hearing, Sean Callahan, Chief Operating Officer of Catholic Relief Services, said, “As global leaders in the international humanitarian and refugee response, the U.S. and Eu-

rope must heed Pope Francis’ call and find new ways to alleviate the suffering and protect the vulnerable.” I could not agree more. In the 20th and 21st centuries, the United States and Europe have come together to address the great challenges of our time and this is an opportunity to do so again.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 27

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States military strategy in the Middle East.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement’s proposed Stream Protection Rule.

SD-366

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the Internal Revenue Service’s response to Committee recommendations contained in its August 5, 2015 report.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on the Administration’s response to the Syrian conflict.

SVC-217

1:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency to examine ongoing challenges at the Secret Service and their government-wide implications.

HVC-210

OCTOBER 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the United States role and strategy in the Middle East.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the state of rural banking, focusing on challenges and consequences.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jessica Rosenworcel, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2015.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine realizing the potential of the Department of Energy national laboratories.

SD-138

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security

To hold hearings to examine retirement plan options for small businesses.

SH-216

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the state of our nation’s biodefense.

SD-342

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Department of Veterans Affairs mental health, focusing on ensuring access to care.

SR-418

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Peter William Bodde, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to Libya, Marc Jonathan Sievers, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, Elisabeth I. Millard, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tajikistan, and Kenneth Damian Ward, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, all of the Department of State, and John Morton, of Massachusetts, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

SD-419

OCTOBER 29

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Thomas A. Shannon, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Political Affairs).

SD-419